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10/774,830

In the Claims

1. (withdrawn) A system for applying a decorating image onto a trash receptacle, the trash receptacle having a wall with an exterior surface, comprising:
  - a) a decorative image being disposed on the exterior surface of the wall of the receptacle to permit the appearance of the trash receptacle to be enhanced; and,
  - b) wherein said decorative image is free form drawn on the trash receptacle.
2. (withdrawn) The system of Claim 1, wherein said decorative image is traced on the trash receptacle.
3. (withdrawn) The system of Claim 2, wherein said decorative image is stamped on the trash receptacle.
4. (withdrawn) The system of Claim 3, wherein said decorative image is painted on the trash receptacle.
5. (withdrawn) The system of Claim 4, wherein said decorative image camouflages the trash receptacle.
6. (withdrawn) A system for applying a decorative image onto a trash receptacle, the trash receptacle having a wall with an exterior surface, comprising:
  - a) a covering being disposed on the exterior surface of the wall of the receptacle to permit the appearance of the receptacle to be enhanced, said covering having front and back surfaces, said back surface being disposed contiguous to the wall of the receptacle;
  - b) an adhering substance being disposed on said back surface of said covering so that said covering is secured to the trash receptacle; and,
  - c) a decorative image being disposed on said front surface of said covering to permit the appearance of the trash receptacle to be enhanced.

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7. (withdrawn) The system of Claim 6, wherein said covering comprises vinyl.

8. (withdrawn) The system of Claim 7, wherein said decorative image is painted on said covering.

9. (withdrawn) The system of Claim 8, wherein said decorative image is printed on said covering.

10. (currently amended) A system for applying a decorative image onto a trash receptacle, the trash receptacle having a wall with an exterior surface, in combination comprising:

a) a protective sleeve being disposed around the exterior surface of the wall of the receptacle, said sleeve being shaped complementarily to the receptacle, said sleeve having top and bottom ends and having inner and outer walls being joined at the said bottom end so as to form a U-shaped sleeve being open ~~[[pen]]~~ at said top end and having a channel formed between said walls, said sleeve having at least one aperture therein, said aperture for receiving a handle of the trash receptacle, said protective sleeve being annular in shape and open at the bottom end, said bottom end being above a bottom of said trash receptacle;

b) a placard being removably disposed in said channel of said sleeve, ~~said placard having front and back surfaces, said back surface being disposed contiguous to the wall of the receptacle, said placard and protective sleeve having~~ corresponding openings at least one aperture therein, said aperture for receiving a handle of the trash receptacle to be accessible from outside of said protective sleeve; and,

c) a removable, annular top cap, U-shaped in crosssection, disposed on said top of said protective sleeve overlapping a top edge of said trash receptacle and both walls of said protective sleeve so as to form a watertight seal to permit the placard to be protected; and

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d) ~~[[c)]]~~ a decorative image being disposed on said front surface of said placard to permit the appearance of the trash receptacle to be enhanced.

11-12. (canceled)

13. (currently amended) The system of Claim 10 ~~[[12]]~~, further comprising a gasket being disposed between said top cap ring and said sleeve to form a watertight seal.

14. (canceled)

15. (new) A trash receptacle system comprising:

a) a cylindrical trash receptacle having a closed bottom and a top opening, with handles on opposite, outer sides of said receptacle;

b) a transparent protective sleeve disposed around the outer sides of said receptacle, said sleeve extending from said top opening to just above said closed bottom, said sleeve having top and bottom ends and having inner and outer walls being joined at the said bottom end so as to form an annular U-shaped sleeve open at said top end forming a channel between said walls;

b) a cylindrical shaped placard removably disposed in said channel of said sleeve;

c) a removable, annular top cap, U-shaped in crosssection, overlapping a top edge of said trash receptacle and both walls of said protective sleeve so as to form a watertight seal to permit the placard to be protected;

d) said sleeve inner and outer walls and said placard having matching openings through which said handles extend for allowing said handles to be grasped from outside of said protective sleeve; and

e) a decorative image being disposed on an outer surface of said placard visible through said transparent protective sleeve to permit the appearance of the trash receptacle to be enhanced.